



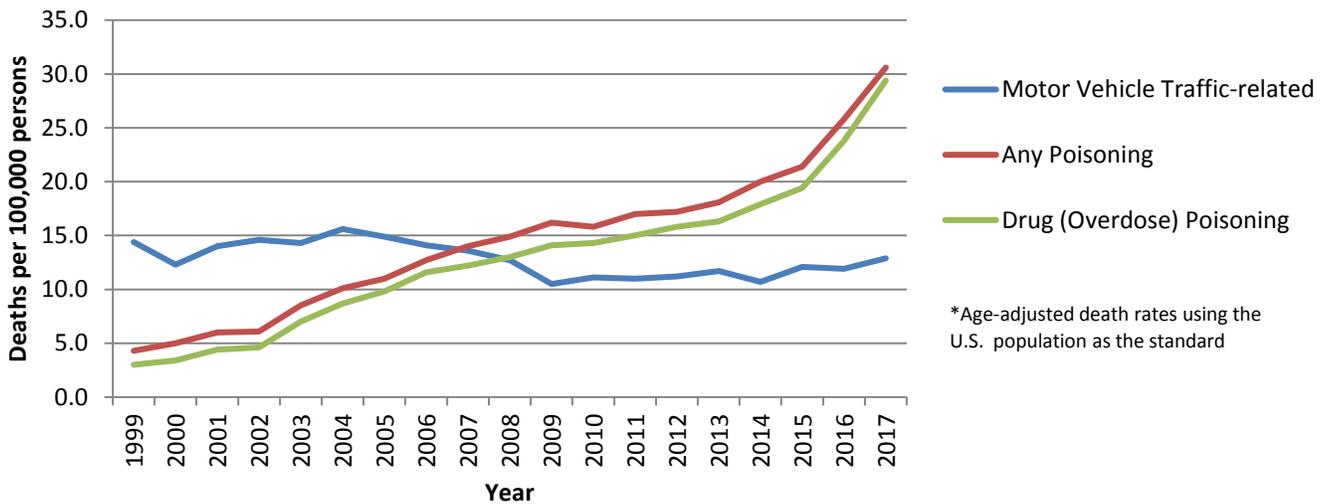
Indiana

Special Emphasis Report: Drug Overdose Deaths 1999-2017

A Public Health Crisis Continues

Poisoning from drugs, alcohol, gases, vapors, and other solids or liquids is the leading cause of injury deaths in Indiana, and drug poisonings alone caused 9 out of 10 poisoning deaths in 2017. Drug poisoning deaths, also called overdoses, increased almost 10-fold since 1999, surpassing motor vehicle traffic-related deaths in 2008 (Figure 1), and have continued to rise. In 2017, the poisoning death rate was 30.6 deaths per 100,000 persons, and the drug overdose death rate was 29.4 deaths per 100,000 persons, compared to a motor vehicle traffic-related death rate of 12.9 deaths per 100,000 persons. On a national level, from 2016 to 2017, the death rate from opioids increased 12 percent, which was due primarily to the 45 percent rate increase of synthetic opioids other than methadone, which includes fentanyl. National heroin death rates remained steady from 2016 to 2017 at a rate of 4.9 per 100,000.

Figure 1. Drug overdose death rates* compared to motor vehicle-related death rates, Indiana residents, 1999-2017



Drugs Caused 9 out of 10 Poisoning Deaths

In 2017, both illicit drugs and over-the-counter medications, were the underlying cause of death for 93% of all poisoning deaths. Of the total drug overdose deaths, 90 percent were unintentional, 4 percent were suicide or intentional self-harm, and 6 percent were of undetermined intent. The rate for males was 1.9 times higher than for females, and persons ages 25-34 and 35-44 had the highest rates of all age categories (57.6 per 100,000).

Table 1. Drug overdose deaths: Demographic characteristics and intent, Indiana residents, 2017

		Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000 persons
Gender	Female	646	35%	19.1
	Male	1206	65%	36.7
Age (in years)*	15-24	161	9%	17.3
	25-34	510	28%	58.7
	35-44	480	26%	58.7
	45-54	401	21%	46.9
	55 and older	295	16%	12.6
Intent	Unintentional (also known as "accidental")	1,661	90%	25.0
	Suicide or intentional self-harm	76	4%	1.1
	Undetermined	113	6%	1.7

*0-14 age group not included due to low numbers.



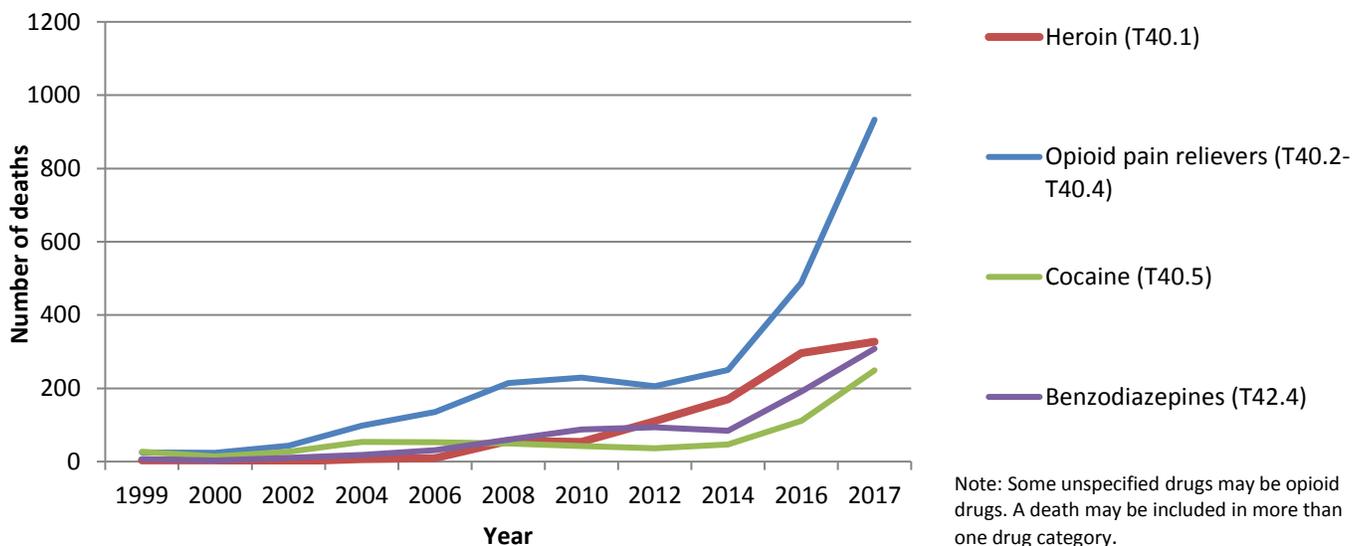
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Opioid Pain Relievers, Especially Fentanyl, Contribute to Drug Overdose Deaths

Any drug has the potential to be misused or abused, and may be even more dangerous when used in combination with other drugs or alcohol. The three most-commonly prescribed drugs that are abused are opioids, depressants and stimulants. Opioid pain relievers include natural and semi-synthetic opioids, such as oxycodone or hydrocodone, and synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl and tramadol. Deaths involving opioid pain relievers contributed to 933 (50 percent) of the 1,852 drug overdose deaths in 2017. These results may underestimate the burden of opioid deaths due to lack of drug specificity on death certificates. While the number of heroin involved overdoses increased slightly by 8 percent from 2016 to 2017, the number of synthetic opioid involved overdoses increased 107 percent from 2016-2017. This increase may be due to the uptick of illicitly manufactured fentanyl supply, which is cheaper and more accessible than prescription opioids as prescribing guidelines and the use of prescription drug monitoring programs become adopted.

Figure 2. Number of drug overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers and other drugs, Indiana residents, 1999-2017



Addressing the Issue

The Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention at the Indiana State Department of Health works to prevent injuries and create a healthier and safer Indiana.

Activities: CDC Prescription Drug Overdose (PDO) Prevention for States program combats the drug overdose epidemic with resources to maximize prescription drug monitoring programs, implement community interventions and conduct policy evaluations.

Surveillance: The Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention conducts statewide PDO surveillance through analyzing data from death certificates, hospitalizations and emergency department visits.

The Indiana Commission to Combat Drug Abuse is responsible for coordinating substance abuse prevention, treatment, and enforcement through the state. The Commission went into effect on Jan. 1, 2017, transitioning from, and building on, the work accomplished by the Governor's Drug Task Force.

Resources

Find Drug Take-Back Events or Disposal Locations for Unneeded or Unwanted Medications:

https://www.in.gov/bitterpill/safe_storage.html

Find National Data and Resources from the CDC:

<http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/>

Find State Resources at ISDH Drug Overdose Prevention:

<http://www.in.gov/isdh/27358.htm>

Find an Entity Carrying Naloxone Near You from Overdose Prevention Therapy-Indiana:

<https://optin.in.gov/>

Find State and County Level Data at ISDH Stats Explorer:

https://gis.in.gov/apps/isdh/meta/stats_layers.htm

Find Recovery Resources and Treatment Resources at NextLevel Recovery Indiana:

<https://www.in.gov/recovery/>

Indiana Poison Center: Helpline: 1-800-222-1222

<http://indianapoison.org/>